

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action dated August 2, 2010, Applicants have cancelled claims 1, 4 and 6-9, without prejudice. New claim 12 has been added. Support for new claim 12 may be found, for example, in Figs. 1, 3 and 4-6 of the drawings. No new matter has been added.

For the reasons set forth below, Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art references.

II. The Rejection of Claims 1, 4 And 6-9 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 4 and 6-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yutaka (JP 2002-137225) in view of Wold (USP No. 2,364,334) and further in view of Argiopoulos (USP No. 5,787,751), Wickham (USP No. 6,209,334) or Gross (USP No. 2,299,818).

As claims 1, 4 and 6-9 have been cancelled, the § 103 rejection is now moot.

Moreover, new independent claim 12 recites a method for removing a dissimilar material, which is attached to a plastic product and is different from the material of the plastic product, from the plastic product, using a dissimilar material removing apparatus including a seat unit having a seat surface and a frame slidably disposed on the seat surface, a punching unit configured to remove the dissimilar material from the plastic product, and having a blade unit arranged to be insertable into the hole that penetrates the seat surface and a working unit configured to move the blade unit vertically, comprising the steps of: placing the plastic product on the seat surface of the seat unit so that the plastic product is inside the frame; punching out a part to be removed by moving the blade unit down after positioning the part to be removed under

the blade unit of the punching unit by moving the frame with the plastic product on the seat surface; and removing the dissimilar material from the plastic product by repeating the punching step.

Features of new independent claim 12 include a method for removing a dissimilar material using a dissimilar material removing apparatus including a seat unit having a seat surface and a frame slidably disposed on the seat surface. The method also comprises the steps of placing the plastic product on the seat surface of the seat unit so that the plastic product is inside the frame, punching out a part to be removed by moving the blade unit down after positioning the part to be removed under the blade unit of the punching unit by moving the frame with the plastic product on the seat surface, and removing the dissimilar material from the plastic product by repeating the punching step.

For example, as shown in Fig. 3, the device is used to place a plastic product 10 inside the frame 5. The frame 5 is then moved on the seat unit 4 so that a dissimilar material 13 attached to the plastic product 10 is disposed over the hole 4c of the seat unit 4. The part to be removed is then partially punched out by moving the blade 2 down. By positioning the frame on the seat surface, a user is able to adjust the position of the dissimilar material with respect to the hole. The blade is moved down, and the punching step is repeated to remove the remainder of the dissimilar material.

Yutaka fails to teach or suggest the above features. Yutaka fails to teach or suggest a seat unit having a seat surface and a frame slidably disposed on the seat surface. Rather, as is shown in Figs. 3-4 of Yutaka, a table 50, is arranged on a slider 52 to be movable in a Y-direction along guide members 56. The slider is arranged on the base 54 and movable in an X-direction along

guide members 60. Thus, Yatuka teaches a table that is disposed on the frame, not a frame slidably disposed on a seat, as recited by new claim 12. As a result of this difference, the movable area of the table 50 with respect to the hole 64 is limited to a small range having very low movability for the item to be punched. For example, if the table 50 is moved widely in the X and Y-directions, the table will block the punching mechanism of the blade 90. This is clear from Fig. 3 of Yatuka, in which the part to be removed is a small hole in the object, which does not require movement of the object to be punched out.

Moreover, Yatuka fails to teach that the plastic product is placed inside the frame. As is clear from the figures of Yatuka, the plastic object is placed around the frame and table, thereby preventing the user from manipulating the frame without handling the plastic product. Thus, Yatuka does not disclose the method of claim 12 regarding the step of placing the plastic product on the seat surface of the seat unit so that the plastic product is inside the frame, punching out a part to be removed by moving the blade unit down after positioning the part to be removed under the blade unit of the punching unit by moving the frame with the plastic product on the seat surface, and removing the dissimilar material from the plastic product by repeating the punching step.

Moreover, at a minimum, Wold, Argiropoulos, Wickham and Gross also fail to disclose or suggest the above limitations. Accordingly, it is clear that a combination of Yatuka, Wold, Argiropoulos, Wickham and Gross does not disclose a method for removing a dissimilar material, which is attached to a plastic product and is different from the material of the plastic product, from the plastic product, using a dissimilar material removing apparatus including a seat unit having a seat surface and a frame slidably disposed on the seat surface, a punching unit configured to remove the dissimilar material from the plastic product, and having a blade unit

arranged to be insertable into a hole that penetrates the seat surface, and a working unit configured to move the blade unit vertically, comprising the steps of: placing the plastic product on the seat surface of the seat unit so that the plastic product is inside the frame; punching out a part to be removed by moving the blade unit down after positioning the part to be removed under the blade unit of the punching unit by moving the frame with the plastic product on the seat surface; and removing the dissimilar material from the plastic product by repeating the punching step. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Yutaka, Wold, Argiropoulos, Wickham and Gross do not render new claim 12 of the present disclosure obvious.

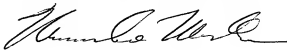
III. Conclusion

Having fully responded to all matters raised in the Office Action, Applicants submit that all claims are in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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